

IN THE CLAIMS:

The following is a complete listing of the claims, and replaces all earlier version and listings.

1. - 10. (canceled).

11. (currently amended): An information processing apparatus connected to a first printer and a second printer, comprising:

a discriminating means for discriminating unit adapted to discriminate to which of ~~said~~ the first printer and ~~said~~ the second printer each page of print information is outputted;

an output means for unit adapted to outputting, to the first printer, the page in ~~said~~ the print information which was determined to be outputted to ~~said~~ the first printer, ~~to said first printer and to outputting, to the second printer,~~ the page in ~~said~~ the print information which was determined to be outputted to ~~said~~ the second printer ~~to said second printer;~~ and

a controller, adapted to means for adding control information for switching ejecting positions regarding the pages in which a succession of page numbers was broken to the print information which is outputted to ~~said~~ the first printer by said output ~~means~~ unit in a manner such that the pages are sorted and ejected on an output page unit basis of the succeeding page numbers in ~~said~~ the first printer.

12. (currently amended): An apparatus according to claim 11, wherein said controller means further adds control information for switching ejecting positions regarding the pages in which succession of page numbers was broken to the print

information which is outputted to ~~said~~ the second printer by said output ~~means~~ unit in a manner such that the pages are sorted and ejected on an output page unit basis of the succeeding page numbers in ~~said~~ the second printer.

13. (currently amended): An apparatus according to claim 11, wherein said controller ~~means~~ further adds ~~said~~ the control information in accordance with the sorting function which ~~said~~ the first printer has.

14. (currently amended): An apparatus according to claim 13, wherein ~~said~~ the control information is control information for instructing a sorter processing function for sorting and outputting each output sheet by using a plurality of bins.

15. (currently amended): An apparatus according to claim 13, wherein ~~said~~ the control information is control information for instructing a shift processing function for deviating the ejecting position of each output sheet and putting the sheets onto ~~[[a]]~~ the same tray.

16. (canceled).

17. (currently amended): An apparatus according to claim 11, wherein said discriminating ~~means~~ unit discriminates to which of ~~said~~ ~~first~~ the first printer and ~~said~~ the second printer each page of the print information should be outputted in accordance with whether information to be color printed exists in each page of the print information or not.

18. (currently amended): An apparatus according to claim 17, wherein ~~said~~ the first printer is a monochromatic printer and ~~said the~~ the second printer is a color printer.

19. (currently amended): A print information outputting method comprising:
a discriminating step₁ of discriminating to which of a first printer and a second printer each page of print information is outputted;

an output step₂ of outputting, to the first printer, the page in ~~said the~~ the print information which was determined to be outputted to ~~said the~~ the first printer, ~~to said first printer~~ and outputting, to the second printer, the page in ~~said the~~ the print information which was determined to be outputted to ~~said the~~ the second printer ~~to said second printer~~; and

a control step₃ of adding control information for switching ejecting positions regarding the pages in which a succession of page numbers was broken to the print information which is outputted to ~~said the~~ the first printer ~~[[by]]~~ in said output step in a manner such that the pages are sorted and ejected on an output page unit basis of the succeeding page numbers in ~~said the~~ the first printer.

20. (currently amended): A method according to claim 19, wherein₁ in said control step, control information for switching ejecting positions regarding the pages in which succession of page numbers was broken is further added to the print information which is outputted to ~~said the~~ the second printer ~~[[by]]~~ in said output step in a manner such that the pages are sorted and ejected on an output page unit basis of the succeeding page numbers in ~~said the~~ the second printer.

21. (currently amended): A method according to claim 19, wherein, in said control step, ~~said~~ the control information is added in accordance with the sorting function which ~~said~~ the first printer has.

22. (currently amended): A method according to claim 21, wherein ~~said~~ the control information is control information for instructing a sorter processing function for sorting and outputting each output sheet by using a plurality of bins.

23. (currently amended): A method according to claim 21, wherein ~~said~~ the control information is control information for instructing a shift processing function for deviating the.ejecting position of each output sheet and putting the sheets onto ~~[[a]]~~ the same tray.

24. (canceled).

25. (currently amended): A method according to claim 19, wherein, in said discriminating step, to which of ~~said first~~ the first printer and ~~said~~ the second printer each page of the print information should be outputted is discriminated in accordance with whether information to be color printed exists in each page of the print information or not.

26. (currently amended): A method according to claim 25, wherein ~~said~~ the first printer is a monochromatic printer and ~~said~~ the second printer is a color printer.

27. (currently amended): A computer program, which is stored in a computer-readable medium and is executed by a computer of an information processing apparatus connected to a first printer and a second printer, comprising:

a discriminating step, of discriminating to which of ~~said~~ the first printer and ~~said~~ the second printer each page of print information is outputted;

an output step, of outputting, to the first printer, the page in ~~said~~ the print information which was determined to be outputted to ~~said~~ the first printer, ~~to said first printer~~ and outputting, to the second printer, the page in ~~said~~ the print information which was determined to be outputted to ~~said~~ the second printer ~~to said second printer~~; and

a control step, of adding control information for switching ejecting positions regarding the pages in which a succession of page numbers was broken to the print information which is outputted to ~~said~~ the first printer ~~[[by]]~~ in said output step in a manner such that the pages are sorted and ejected on an output page unit basis of the succeeding page numbers in ~~said~~ the first printer.

28. (original): A computer-readable memory medium which stores the computer program according to claim 27.

29. (new): An information processing apparatus capable of communicating with a plurality of print control apparatuses including a color print control apparatus and a monochromatic print control apparatus, said information processing apparatus comprising:

a discrimination unit adapted to discriminate whether print data to be output to any of the plurality of print control apparatuses is color data or monochromatic data;

a determination unit adapted to determine whether the print data is to be output either to the color print control apparatus or to the monochromatic print control apparatus based on a discrimination made by said discrimination unit;

a first output unit adapted to, when said determination unit determines that the print data is to be output to the color print control apparatus, output the print data to the color print control apparatus with a designation of a first ejection destination, wherein said first output unit outputs a certain page while maintaining the designation of the first ejection destination, if the page is serial to a previously outputted page, and changes the designation of the first ejection destination, if the page is not serial to the previously outputted page; and

a second output unit adapted to, when said determination unit determines that the print data is to be output to the monochromatic print control apparatus, output the print data to the monochromatic print control apparatus with a designation of a second ejection destination, wherein said second output unit outputs a certain page while maintaining the designation of the second ejection destination, if the page is serial to a previously outputted page, and changes the designation of the second ejection destination, if the page is not serial to the previously outputted page.

30. (new): An information processing apparatus according to claim 29, further comprising a holding unit adapted to hold information on the designation of the first or second ejection destination, wherein said first or second output unit outputs the certain page while maintaining the designation of the first or second ejection destination based on the information held in said holding unit, if the page is serial to the previously outputted page.

31. (new): An information processing method for use in an information processing apparatus that is capable of communicating with a plurality of print control apparatuses including a color print control apparatus and a monochromatic print control apparatus, said method comprising the steps of:

discriminating whether print data to be output to any of the plurality of print control apparatuses is color data or monochromatic data;

determining whether the print data is to be output either to the color print control apparatus or to the monochromatic print control apparatus based on a discrimination made in said discriminating step;

when it is determined in said determining step that the print data is to be output to the color print control apparatus, outputting the print data to the color print control apparatus with a designation of a first ejection destination, while maintaining the designation of the first ejection destination, if the page is serial to a previously outputted page, and while changing the designation of the first ejection destination, if the page is not serial to the previously outputted page; and

when it is determined in said determining step that the print data is to be output to the monochromatic print control apparatus, outputting the print data to the monochromatic print control apparatus with a designation of a second ejection destination, while maintaining the designation of the second ejection destination, if the page is serial to a previously outputted page, and while changing the designation of the second ejection destination, if the page is not serial to the previously outputted page.

32. (new): An information processing method according to claim 31, further comprising the step of holding information on the designation of the first or second

ejection destination, wherein the certain page is outputted while maintaining the designation of the first or second ejection destination based on the information held in said holding step, if the page is serial to the previously outputted page.